

# SAINT MAURICE PARISH



St. Maurice Parish  
2001 Ardmore Blvd.,(Forest Hills)  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

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## WEDDING GUIDELINES

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING AT  
SAINT MAURICE PARISH



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2001 Ardmore Blvd  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221



*The way is long -*

*Let us go together.*

*The way is difficult -*

*Let us help each other.*

*The way is joyful -*

*Let us share it.*

*The way is ours alone -*

*Let us go in love.*

*Through the providence of God, you people have been brought together, and your affection for each other motivates you to enter into the most sacred union of marriage.*

*Since at least one of you is of Catholic faith, you are presenting yourself to the Parish Priest and requesting that you be united in marriage according to the teachings and laws of the Church.*

*We are most happy for you and assure you that we will do everything possible so that your marriage will be blessed by God in such a way that you can honestly say to each other:*

*"We both want a love that will never die and will have no moments of hate or satiety. That love lies beyond both of us. Let us therefore use our marital love for each other to bring us to that perfect blissful love which is God."*

*May the Good Lord guide and protect you as to take this very important step in your lives.*

## INTRODUCTION

Once a couple has decided to marry, their first move is to confer with their Parish Priest. Either the bride or groom must be a member of Saint Maurice Parish. In case of a marriage of mixed religion, the marriage should take place in the church of the Catholic party.

Six (6) months before a contemplated wedding, the couple should confer with the Parish Priest, and together, set a date. Then they are free to work on hall rental, invitations, etc.

Having presented yourselves to the Parish Priest for the purpose of marriage, we will now move to the practical steps which must be followed:

1. The date and hour of your marriage must be finalized in co-operation with the Parish Priest
2. A program for marriage instructions must be agreed upon and followed
3. Church laws oblige us to certain marriage forms which must be completed. These forms have reference to:
  - a. A person's baptism or non-baptism

- b. Freedom to marry
- c. Physical and mental capacity to enter into a marriage contract
- d. In case of a mixed religion marriage, a dispensation must be sought from the Bishop

## TIME OF WEDDING

- Friday: 5:00pm or
- Saturday: 1:00pm or 3:00pm

When weddings are scheduled at 3:00pm on a Saturday, the reception line and/or picture-taking MUST be completed by 4:30pm so as to not interfere with people coming to Evening Mass. It is imperative that the driveway in front of the church be cleared of all vehicles by this time. No vehicles are to be left in the Parish parking lot(s) following the wedding.

## HONORARIUMS

- Church - \$100.00
- Priest - It is customary to provide an honorarium for the Priest
- Altar Servers (2) - \$10.00 each

with the Florist as to floral decorations. The floral decorations must not obscure or block the Altar or Tabernacle from view. If there are two weddings on the same day, we suggest that the couples work out a shared plan. It is presumed that the flowers will remain in the sanctuary for church use after the wedding.

## FLORAL CRASH

The length of the middle aisle of the church is 75 feet. A crash is not recommended because the church is carpeted and the aisle is sloped. However, if a crash is desired, a cotton-fiber type (not plastic) is recommended.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Be advised that photographers must adhere to the regulations of the church:

1. Pictures may be taken in the church before the ceremony
2. Pictures may be taken during the ceremony as long as the photographer(s) remain(s) out of the sanctuary
3. All picture-taking following the ceremony must be completed by the prescribed time. St. Maurice is a church, not a

photo studio

4. Video cameras are permitted. However, no bright lights may be used

Members of the Wedding Committee may be consulted as to camera placement.

## BRIDE'S ROOM

The church has a bridal room available for the bride and her attendants. Early arrival here will provide time for a last minute check and to assure that the wedding will start on time. Brides may also dress here, if necessary. Arrival at the church is suggested 30 minutes prior to the ceremony.

## ALCOHOL

The consumption of alcohol on church premises is strictly prohibited. Please save this type of celebrating for your reception.

## CELEBRANT-MINISTER

St. Maurice Parish is agreeable to those couples who would prefer a guest priest for the wedding. This must be cleared by the Parish Priest well in advance. In case of a mixed religion marriage, the non-Catholic is most welcome

- Organist/Music Ministry - \$150.00;  
(\$200.00 if bringing in outside musician(s))
- Optional special music requests (if contracted by St. Maurice):
  - St. Maurice Choir - \$450.00/variable
  - St. Maurice Cantor  
(if other than Director of Music)- \$75.00
  - Soloist/Instrumentalists: Variable
  - Brass/String Ensemble: Variable

If independent, specific soloist(s) or instrumentalist(s) is/are requested by the couple, there will be an additional \$50.00 Music Ministry fee per musician/ensemble. This includes one half-hour rehearsal (required) with the organist (most soloists prefer to have this rehearsal the day of the wedding prior to the ceremony). Additional rehearsals are \$50.00 per half hour session.

\*Note: Any musician participating in the wedding is subject to approval by the Director of Music and the Pastor. The couple will be responsible for independently contracting any

instrumentalist(s)/soloist(s) who is/are not provided by St. Maurice. All Music Ministry honorariums must be submitted in full to the Parish Office one week prior to the wedding. All other honorariums should be submitted in separate, marked envelopes to a member of the Wedding Committee at the wedding rehearsal.

## THE WEDDING COMMITTEE

Our Parish has a committee of volunteers ready to assist you with the details of your wedding day at St. Maurice. A member of the committee will contact the couple two weeks before your wedding. A team of two (2) Coordinators will be present for both the rehearsal and the wedding.

## ALTAR SERVERS

Altar servers are assigned by the Parish from our pool of experienced acolytes, unless there is a special request for specific servers.

## FLORIST

Couples are to make their own arrangements

to invite their minister to participate in the ceremony.

## BEST MAN AND MAID OF HONOR

The Best Man and Maid of Honor are witnesses, and as such, need not be of Catholic faith. The Priest should be made aware of the religious status of the witnesses. Non-Catholics are not permitted to receive Communion at a Catholic Wedding Mass.

## RICE AND E.T.C.

Due to insurance reasons, the throwing of rice, confetti, bird seed, etc. is prohibited.

## RECEIVING LINE

Arrangements may be made for a receiving line. Consideration should be given to time limitations (if another wedding or Mass immediately follows) and the number of guests expected. Choice of either a receiving line or picture-taking following the wedding may be necessary.

## REHEARSAL TIME

Call the Parish Office (412-271-0809) to sched-

ule a rehearsal time with the priest performing the ceremony. Marriage license, honorariums, and any other items to be used in the ceremony other than flowers (Unity Candle, etc.) should be brought to the rehearsal.

All other questions can be directed to our Parish Office at 412-271-0809 during normal business hours (Monday-Friday: 9:00am-4:30pm) or e-mailed to [parishoffice@stmauriceparish.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmauriceparish.org).

For more information and to start selecting your wedding music, please visit our website at [www.stmauriceparish.org](http://www.stmauriceparish.org), click on the Ministries menu and scroll down to find the Wedding Music Examples link.

Thank you and all the best.